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SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" What is the progress made in fishing by trawlers, Sir, and is it remunerative to Government? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I would like to have notice."

SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—" Sir, as fishing is a large and important industry, will the Hon. Minister consider the feasibility of instituting an enquiry into the living conditions and the conditions of work of the fishermen immediately? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, this is a large question. I would like the Government to look into the question of improving the industry, before even looking into the general question of improving the conditions of fishermen."

SRI S. THINAKARASAMI THEVAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether fishes are supplied to wells in village parts? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, that is a separate question and that has been taken up."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Will Government while improving the conditions of fishing, think of improving the conditions of fishermen also who are hopelessly in debt? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is therefore, Sir, that Fisheries Co-operative Societies are being encouraged."

Status and functions of the Director of Harijan Welfare.

* 775 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the powers and functions of the Director of Harijan Welfare; and

(*b*) whether he is exercising the powers of head of a department in matters relating to Harijan Welfare and in supervising the Harijan Welfare work carried out by the District Collectors?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The Director of Harijan Welfare is the Head of the Harijan Welfare Department and exercises all the powers delegated to him as Head of the Department. He attends to the work of welfare among Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. He co-ordinates the work of the Collectors who are directly in charge of the work in the districts except in Madras City where the Director himself is in charge of the work. The question of defining the powers of the Director of Harijan Welfare *vis-a-vis* the Collectors in regard to supervisory control over the staff doing Harijan Welfare work is under the consideration of the Government."

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SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, are Government aware that most of the recommendations and instructions from the Director of Harijan Welfare are not observed by Collectors and their staff and consequently this work very often becomes ineffective? As such, what do the Government propose to do in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, I do not grant the premises of the hon. Member."

Revision of the basic pay of the menial staff of Government hospitals in the City.

* 776 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the basic pay of the menial staff (hospital workers) of the Government hospitals in the City;

(*b*) whether the Government have considered the demands of the Workers' Union of the Government Hospital for the revision of their basic pay; and

(*c*) whether they are provided with uniforms at State cost or dress allowance?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) A statement [a] showing the scales of pay of the hospital workers is laid on the table of the House.

" (*b*) Yes, Sir.

" (*c*) Certain Hospital workers are provided with free clothing by Government. A statement [a] showing the categories of staff in Government Hospitals to whom clothing is supplied free of cost is laid on the table of the House."

Construction of a channel from Thuchanam to Kannyalamkara, South Kanara.

* 777 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP (on behalf of Sri M. Narayanan Nambiar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from Ajanoor village in Hosdrug sub-taluk, South Kanara district, in December 1952, requesting the Government to construct a channel from Thuchanam to Kannyalamkara and Vellachal; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The proposal is under investigation."

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 79–81 infra.